

Citizens with Disabilities Advisory Committee Meeting
April 21, 2011
Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Caren Wilson, Bob Buchanan, Marga Stone, Jamie Cloghessy, Bob Lidfors, Deborah Levy.

Members Absent: Stan Richardson, Michael Whipple, Patricia Kepler (excused), April Jordan (excused).

Guests: Laura O'Neill (Executive Director of NAMI, Washington County), Peggy Martinez

Committee Liaisons: Councilor San Soucie reported on the forum with the 'Family Bridge for Developmental Disabilities'. With Federal and State budget cuts, the organization asked the City Council to brainstorm on how resources could be allocated, and if there are City resources that available to assist the organization. The forum was well attended with over 40 in attendance (only 20 were expected). The forum was a good opportunity for networking with similar organizations.

Approval of the Previous Meetings Minutes: Bob Buchanan made a motion to approve the March, 2011 meeting minutes. Marga seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Reports:

Old Business:

- **Mental Health Client Training.** Laura O'Neill, Director of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), provided a wealth of information on the challenges persons with mental health issue face, this included: crisis response using Police, EMT, Emergency Dispatch and NAMI were possible; Adults with mental health issue are usually living off of disability income (\$600/month), have difficulty on finding safe housing; are often victim of crimes; are often isolated from social interaction and need support groups like NAMI and others; often have health issues and lack of access to medial care. Families with children who have mental health issues fear going out in public as they are often are faced with negative public perceptions (seen as having parents who can't control their children); also need support groups; and often have interactions with the Police (some good, some with a negative experience). Statistics show that 1 in 4 people have some mental health issue, and 31,000 people in Washington County have major mental health issues.
- **City Taxi Service for Persons with Disabilities.** Councilor San Soucie and Sherri Rita (NW ADA center) found the ADA taxi services as they relate to disability access. Sherri forwarded a Web link on the subject.

New Business:

- **Committee Priorities for 2011.** This item was tabled to the May meeting. A copy of Marga's draft over-view of the Committee's purpose, mission and past activities was handed out at the previous meeting for review and discussion. Items for discussion at the next meeting are:
 - Supporting the Committee's mission.
 - Updating the ADA Resource Guide.
 - Updating the Committee display board.
 - Participating in events, such as: the Community Forum, Accessibility Resource Fair and Bow Wow Bash.
- Peggy Martinez (Citizen Guest) asked if anything could be done to improve access for mobility scooters in the accessible toilet stall of the women's restroom at the City Library. She asked if the stall length could be extended. Councilor San Soucie will check with the Library Director.

Next Meeting: May 19, 2011